YUKON

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

COUNCIL

2008 - 2009
ANNUAL REPORT

Table of Contents

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR 3
SUMMARY OF COUNCIL ACTIVITIES 4
DELIBERATIONS 5
COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS 7
FINANCIAL STATEMENT 8
COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP 9
CONTACT INFORMATION 9

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

"The Health and Social Services Council shall, no later than June 30 of each year, provide the Minister with an annual report containing a summary of its activities, deliberations, and recommendations during the preceding year. On receiving the report, the Minister shall lay a copy of it before the Legislative Assembly during the session then in progress or the next session". S.31, Health Act, (Yukon)

This annual report outlines activities undertaken by Council in 2008-2009 in its efforts to meet its legislated mandate in working collaboratively with interest groups, agencies, government and the public at large, to improve the health of our population.

The Council fosters cooperation and coordination in decision-making between the Departments of Health & Social Services, Justice and Education. The assistance and dedication of all the members of this Council is appreciated. Thank you to all of you.

Sincerely,

Kevin McDonnell
Current Chair

SUMMARY OF COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

The Council held one two-day meeting during the period 2008 – 2009, on May 2 and 3, 2008. There was no sub-committee activity during this period.

DELIBERATIONS

The Council received information and heard a presentation on the new **Yukon Community Wellness Court**. This is a program based on creating a healthier life.

The Council heard a presentation regarding **Yukon Wait Times for Health Services**. It was noted that the Federal, Provincial and Territorial Ministers of Health were looking at developing evidence-based benchmarks for acceptable wait times.

The Council also looked into **Pulmonary Function Testing.** The Council was interested in hearing about the number of people seeking testing outside of Yukon for respiratory issues.

Details on the **Health Care Review** that government was initiating were presented to Council, including the purpose and terms of reference for the review.

The new **CEO at Whitehorse General Hospital** met with Council to review the challenges and priorities for the hospital. It was noted that the Hospital Board of Trustees will be working on a new governance guide and strategic plan. The CEO also reviewed the status of **Nursing** at the hospital.

The Council consulted on the issue of **Services at Copper Ridge Facility**. A daughter of a resident provided important insights into the services at the facility, as well as some suggestions for improvements.

Regarding the issue of the program related to handling **Prescription Drugs,** the Council heard recommendations and suggestions for short-term fixes. The Council noted the preference for Yukon to move to an on-line, real time adjudication system for processing prescriptions, including a prescription profile and on-line health record.

The Council noted the following issues relating to the provision of health and social services, and specifically **Gaps in Service** in the following areas:

- Beds/waiting lists/staffing issues- No long term care facility planning
- So many services/but not sure/needs some kind of navigator
- Discussions about how people from the community access services- a person from community should be able to access service/info/call from an office in Whitehorse
- Support groups needed i.e. Alzheimer's, Mental Health
- Follow-up on Senior's contact office/coordinator/advocacy- needs a client-base support group; most seniors don't know what services they have out there
- Effective use of resources i.e. Doctor's visit/specialist- would like to invite a physician to come to talk to the next council meeting- investigate the issue first before any recommendation can be made
- Overlapping of NGOs services/funding/support- coordination of services- lots of

organization are doing/offering the same service

- Chair to bring to Minister's attention the subject of incorporating Best Practices in the health care field (hospital).

The Council also identified the following items for further deliberations:

1. Conduct review of how accessible senior services are in Yukon considering diminished capacity of many users to identify or even be aware of those services.
2. Prepare a plan to address projected short, medium and long term senior's facility resource demands and challenges.
3. Senior Services: Look into whether streamlining services and checking for overlapping grants be made.

COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS

The Council did not forward any recommendations to the Commissioner in Executive Council during 2008/2009.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT
AS TO MARCH 31, 2009

YUKON HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COUNCIL

BUDGET:		**$40,000.00**
Honoraria	$9,300.00	
Travel Costs	$4,956.27	
Contracts	$13,082.97	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		**$27,339.24**

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP
AS AT MARCH 31, 2009

- Allen Lueck – Chair
- Alexia McKinnon – Co-chair
- Marie Cox
- Cindy Gosselin
- Penny Ferbey
- Darcy Tkachuk
- Maxwell Rispin
- James Allen
- Graham Lang
- Jane McIntyre
- David Ravensdale
- Naresh Prasad
- Joseph Graham
- Kevin McDonnell

CONTACT INFORMATION

For information on the Yukon Health and Social Services Council, please contact:

Yukon Health and Social Services Council
Attention: Yvonne Clarke, Secretariat
Box 2703 (H-1)
Whitehorse, Y.T. Y1A 2C6

Phone: (867) 667-5945 or Toll free: 1-800-661-0408 ext. 5945

Fax: (867) 456-6545